

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4203

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11596

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT CARTER)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP -- SCHEDULE AND TRANSPORTATION

REF: LAGOS 11319

1. IN MEETING WITH AM. MUSA, DIRECTOR, AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPORTED SEPTEL, EMBOFF DISCUSSED POSSIBLE SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT. NIGERIANS HAVE NOT BEGUN TO CONSIDER SCHEDULE AND REQUESTED US SUGGESTIONS. EMBOFF MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES FOR CONSIDERATION A VISIT TO LAGOS UNIVERSITY, AN ADDRESS TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, A VISIT TO THE TRADE FAIR AND A MEETING WKTH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. MUSA APPEARED SURPRISED AT SUGGESTED ADDRESS TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC AT PROSPEC OF VISIT TO TRADE FAIR. AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF OBASANJO US VISIT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN LAGOS.

2. AMBASSADOR MUSA, AND IN AN EARLIER, INFORMAL DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR BALEWA, DIRECTOR, PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO USE AMERICAN LIMOUSINE. BOTH SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR GENERAL OBASANJO, WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT AT TIMES, TO RIDE IN "HIS GUEST'S LIMOUSINE." EMBOFF STRESSED SECRET SERVICE CONFIDENTIAL

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SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND DIFFICULTY IN CHANGING SUCH REQUIREMENTS, BUT AGREED TO REPORT NIGERIAN CONCERN TO WASHINGTON. EMBOFF ALSO REQUESTED DETAILS ON ARMOR PLATING, ETC. OF POSSIBLE NIGERIAN VEHICLES.

3. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT US SECRET SERVICE DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH NIGERIAN COUNTERPARTS DURING OBASANJO

VISIT IN ORDER TO EASE POTENTIAL PROBLEM WE MAY FACE ON THIS APPARENTLY SENSITIVE ISSUE.

4. FMG HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER OBASANJO WOULD MEET PRESIDENT CARTER AT AIRPORT. NORMAL PRACTICE IS FOR VISITING HEAD OF STATE TO FLY VIA HELICOPTER FROM AIRPORT TO DODAN BARRACKS WHERE HE IS RECEIVED BY OBASANJO. SINCE ACCORDING TO MUSA HELICOPTERS CAN NOT, REPT NOT, FLY AT THE TIME PRESIDENT CARTER ARRIVES, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR OBASANJO TO MEET CARTER AT AIRPORT AND TRAVEL BY ROAD TO CITY.

(MUSA DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HELICOPTERS COULD NOT FLY; HOWEVER, NIGERIAN AIR FORCE PREFERS NOT TO FLY AFTER DARK.)

IF OBASANJO MEETS PRESIDENT AT THE AIRPORT, FMG FEELS TWO SHOULD RIDE TOGETHER TO PRESIDENT'S QUARTERS, AFTER WHICH OBASANJO WILL DEPART.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AND A COMPLETE REPORT ON ANY DISCUSSIONS OF SCHEDULE OR TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT WHICH MAY BE HELD IN WASHINGTON.
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